

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95821-6340

IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 22, 2003

Ms. Nadine Hitchcock
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing to express support for the CalEPPC proposal to develop and distribute a practitioner's handbook on invasive non-native plant control. The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is an authority on invasive plant issues in California and is well positioned to bring the latest on invasive plants and their control techniques from researchers and land managers to the broader public.

The USFWS recognizes that community based participation in invasive plant control is critical to improving habitat health on a local level. Because of this, the USFWS has provided \$4,000 in support of the project. We encourage the Coastal Conservancy to also support this effort, which will help ensure the effectiveness of local wildland weed identification and control.

Volunteer-based invasive non-native plant removal efforts are continuing to grow both in the East Bay and Bay Area-wide, and this publication will serve them as a practical reference, resource guide, and compilation of current invasive plant removal practices for some of the most aggressive plants currently invading our watersheds. CalEPPC's partnership with the Aquatic Outreach Institute (who works with numerous community members engaged in invasives removal) will help distribute this important resource to as broad an audience as possible. AOI will also use the booklet in a training series in which volunteers and volunteer land managers will receive hands-on instruction and guidance.

By publishing this information in an easy-to-use reference booklet and presenting it through a series of hands-on workshops, the practitioner's handbook will give volunteers, residents, teachers, and local school groups the means to effectively control invasive plant populations in their watersheds.

Sincerely,

Richard Morat
Fish and Wildlife Biologist

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Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

5552 Clayton Road - Concord, California 94521
Phone: (925) 672-6522 - Fax (925) 672-8064

September 18, 2003

Nadine Hitchcock
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing to express support for the CalEPPC proposal to develop and distribute a practitioner's handbook on invasive non-native plant control. The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is an authority on invasive plant issues in California and is well positioned to bring the latest on invasive plants and their control techniques from researchers and land managers to the broader public.

At the Contra Costa County RCD, our watershed coordinators and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff recognize the need for a handbook such as this one. Our staff will share it with the volunteers and property owners we work with. We will use it in training programs, as reference material, and for outreach.

This publication will serve as a practical reference, resource guide, and compilation of current invasive plant removal practices for some of the most aggressive plants currently invading our watersheds. CalEPPC's partnership with the Aquatic Outreach Institute (who works with numerous community members engaged in invasives removal) will help distribute this important resource to as broad an audience as possible. We also support AOI using the booklet in a training series in which volunteers and volunteer land managers will receive hands-on instruction and guidance.

By publishing this information in an easy-to-use reference booklet and presenting it through a series of hands-on workshops, the practitioner's handbook will give volunteers, residents, teachers, and local school groups the means to effectively control invasive plant populations in their watersheds.

Sincerely,

Carol Arnold
District Manager
Contra Costa Resource Conservation District

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SEP 22 2003
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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**Contra
Costa
County**

Public Works Department

255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553-4825
Telephone: (925) 313-2000
FAX: (925) 313-2333
Web site: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/pw

Maurice M. Shiu
Public Works Director

R. Mitch Avalon
Deputy Director

Julia R. Bueren
Deputy Director

Patricia R. McNamee
Deputy Director

September 22, 2003

Nadine Hitchcock
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

I am writing to express support for the CalEPPC proposal to develop and distribute a practitioner's handbook on invasive non-native plant control. The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is an authority on invasive plant issues in California and is well positioned to bring the latest on invasive plants and their control techniques from researchers and land managers to the broader public.

The Contra Costa Department of Public Works sees a need countywide for better invasive control at the local level. We support volunteer involvement in this effort and actively promote—within our offices and in the community—an IPM-based approach to weed identification and control. We understand that this booklet will advocate monitoring and strategic planning for invasive projects.

Volunteer-based invasive non-native plant removal efforts are continuing to grow both in the East Bay and Bay Area-wide, and this publication will serve them as a practical reference, resource guide, and compilation of current invasive plant removal practices for some of the most aggressive plants currently invading our watersheds. CalEPPC's partnership with the Aquatic Outreach Institute, (AOI) will help distribute this important resource to as broad an audience as possible. AOI will also use the booklet in a training series in which volunteers and volunteer land managers will receive hands-on instruction and guidance.

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Sincerely,



Nancy E. Stein
Watershed Management Specialist
Contra Costa County Public Department

NES:cm

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SEP 23 2003
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.

EXHIBIT 3: Letters of Support



Friends Of Baxter Creek

The Friends of Baxter Creek preserve, restore, protect, and advocate for Baxter Creek and neighboring watersheds.

1327 South 46th Street, #155, Richmond, CA 94804
<http://www.creativedifferences.com/baxtercreek>

(510) 231-5778 (ph)
(510) 231-5703 (FAX)

September 18, 2003

Nadine Hitchcock
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland CA 94612-2530

Dear Ms. Hitchcock,

On behalf of the Friends of Baxter Creek, I am writing to express support for the CalEPPC proposal to develop and distribute a practitioner's handbook on invasive non-native plant control. The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is an authority on invasive plant issues in California and is well positioned to bring the latest on invasive plants and their control techniques from researchers and land managers to the broader public.

The Friends of Baxter Creek organize between 12-24 volunteer work parties/year at sites throughout the watershed. We are fortunate to have four creek restoration projects in different phases of development on Baxter Creek; one project is nearly seven years old, another is in the planning phase. Our volunteers work at all of these sites, and the primary activity that they engage in is removal of non-native, invasive plants that threaten to overwhelm native vegetation, including plants installed as part of the restoration projects. From FOBC's perspective, non-native, invasive plants are the primary threat to the success of restoration projects, particularly because on-going park and open space maintenance is frequently underfunded by local governments. The proposed booklet will provide a useful tool for continued training of project leaders, and volunteers, on practical tools and successful techniques for the removal of the most common weeds found at FOBC's restoration sites.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Apple Szostak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Apple" and last name "Szostak" clearly distinguishable.

Apple Szostak
Coordinator

RECEIVED
SEP 24 2003
COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.